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HH

THE HVMBLE

PETITION

OF THE

HARTFORDSHRIE-MEN.

BEING

About the number of two thouſand, already lodged in *London*; comming to the Parliament Houſe. for a redreſſe of their Grievances: Which they hope they ſhall be eaſed of, aſwell as other parts of the *Kingdome*.

COMMING,

With as faithfull and loyall hearts to their King and Country, as any Shire of *England* whatſoever.

They way a false petitio & ye autho printed

LONDON:
Printed for JOHN GREENSMITH, 1641.

LONDON:

THE HUMBLE

PETITION

Of the inhabitants of the County of *Hartfordshire*.

HUMBLY SHEWETH.

THat whereas many other ſhires to the checking of our obedience, have ſtept before us to proſtrate themſelves and their grievances to your all-ſeeing conſiderations: witnes the late Petitions we have heard, and ſince we now are come to Town, have ſeen, and preſented to your view, as thoſe of *Buckingham ſhire, and Eſſex*, &c.

May ye alſo be pleaſed, to except ours, the true and loyall ſubjects of the King and Country. Wee men of *Hartfordſhire*, what other reaſons might have provoked our Neighbor brethren to leave their families, habitations, and children: together with their daily labors,

and ſweat of their brows which they omit, its known to you all, whole renants are the like, we may go ſupperleſſe to bed. The City of *London*, nay and all Cities with corporations of the kingdome: without this ſweat of us, they can no way ſubſiſt, and to proceed unto a further, and a deeper reaſon, that when our ſix dais of commanded labour, are with toile and pains overcome, there is a ſeventh day commanded by Almighty God: wherein we our man-ſervants, our maid ſervants, and ſtrangers that are within our Gates; nay our very beaſts muſt ceaſe from labour: All which we think each of us here have done, and at our firſt ſummons to the Church thither, have quietly, and as wee thought religiouſly relieved our ſelves. To ſerve in one day him, who gave us ſix dais for to ſerve our ſelves.

Where untill now, we thought in many things we had done well, guided by our Parſon, preſwaded by our Vicar, or overruled by the Biſhop of our Diocеſſe, either our purſes or our conſciences ſuffered ſhipwrack: and now to give a bolder word, after the great illumination of your *Parliament*, we may juſtly and with one mouth pronounce, that we in both have ſuffered; that is, both in purſe and conſcience.

But ſince already you have taken away the one, which is too much intollerable tyrany of the high Commiſsion, ſo likewiſe, you would also

also be pleased to take away the handmaids of that great Curtizan.

Leges Civilis quæ Civilitatis Speciem præ se ferent.

And reduce our ancient and primitive and most perfect Religion, to bee attended on by neither Archbishops, Bishops, Deans, Prebends, or such suckers of the Lords vine and vineyards: unlesse they will honestly, laying aside treason and ambition, and plainly laying aside all luxury and idlenesse, truly, plainly, as it behoves them to preach to their miserable and distracted flock, which you see here are forced from their sheepfolds, the plain and reall way to heaven and salvation.

In this joint of our Religion we appear to you, like the great Cathedrall of the City, St. *Pauls* Church, as the first object before wee come at it; knowing well that we must first serve God before we serve our selves.

In the next clause as true lovers of our Country, protesting before hand as a full satisfaction to all Objections, we come not hither invited or incited, onely fearfull our slownesse might have bred your blame: Or, you would be pleasd ('tis all we ask) not to attribute more to the men of *Essex* or *Buckinghamshire* than to our selves, who now have and will neglect those fore-named Fa-

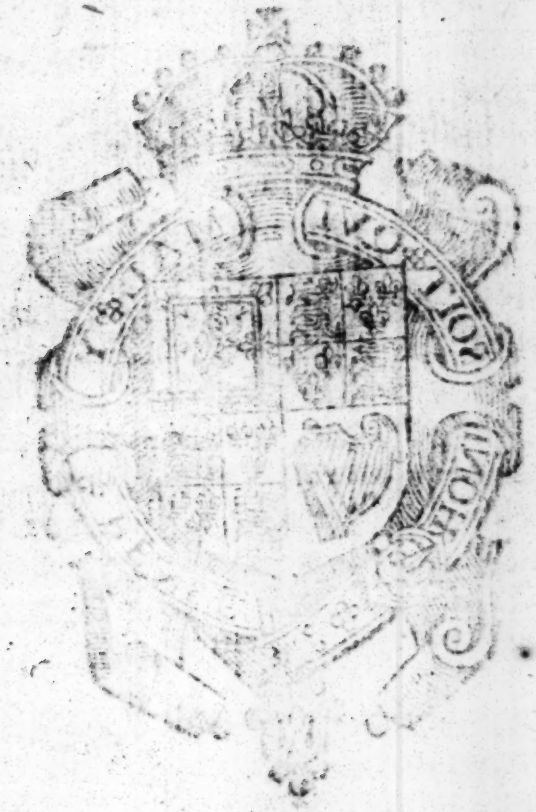
milies, Estates, Lives and Fortunes, and hither come to the protection of your great Capitall; assuring you, although we do appear in coats and cudgels, we have Armour, which we will manage with as strong armes and hearts, as the best of your Artillery. One slighter cause remains; which be pleased to perule, and we have done: the rumour being generally spread amongst us, and verified by good men of our shire, that Sir *Thomas Dyer* (was unfortunately slain.) Whom by the vertue of his Majesties Writ, we chose Knight of our Shire, was amongst a Popish tumult slain, which drew the minor part of us hither: One indeed well-beloved amongst us, and as we hope, throughout the whole kingdome, whom since we hear alive, God with you all protect, and guard your Honourable Assembly.

So humbly prayeth

The men of Hartfordshire,

Your most humble Petitioners.

FINIS.



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